food security and livelihood concerns and has, *inter-alia*, sought sufficient flexibility for domestic policy measures taken by the developing country members for alleviation of poverty, rural development, rural employment and diversification of agriculture. A group of developing countries, namely, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Pakistan, Haiti, Nicaragua, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Al Salvador, Peru have also mooted a proposal for a 'Development Box' which also basically aims for flexibility for developing countries to safeguard food security and rural development. The negotiations, which began from January 2000 are scheduled to conclude by January 2005. The Doha Ministerial Declaration of 14th November 2001 has also acknowledged the development needs of developing countries including food security and rural development.

(c) There are no differential provisions in the WTO based on gender. However, the need for preserving flexibility in domestic policy measures to preserve and enhance rural development in developing countries, which would also benefit women in rural areas, has also been highlighted by India in the ongoing negotiations on Agriculture.

Export-Import Scenario

947. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade deficit widened in the first half of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of export-import figures in the period under question; and

(c) the details of export-import figures and the figures of trade balance in the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the provisional data available from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, India's trade deficit has increased, in US

dollar, to (−) 4963 million in the first half of the current financial year, April-September 2001-02, from (−)4083 million of the corresponding period last year.

(b) and (c) The value of Indian merchandise trade along with the growth rates and trade deficit during the last three years as per data furnished by DGCI&S, Calcutta, are given below:

(US $ Million)

Year	Exports	%Growth	Imports	%Growth	Trade Deficit
1998-99	33219	(−)5.1	42389	2.2	(−)9170
1999-2000	36822	10.8	49671	17.2	(−)12848
2000-01	44560	21.0	50537	1.7	(−)5976
2000-01 April-Sept.	21386	—	25469	—	(−)4083
2001-02 April-Sept. (Provisional)	20968	(−)1.95	25931	1.81	(−)4963

India's Export Share in World Trade

948. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian exports and trade is only 1 per cent of the global exports; and

(b) if so, what is Government's plan to increase the share of Indian exports to a level of 5 per cent of the world trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) (a) As per WTO Report, the share of India's merchandise exports is 0.67% during the year 2000.

(b) Several measures to boost exports have been taken in order to provide competitive edge to Indian goods in the global market. The measures include reduction in transaction costs through decentralization, simplification of procedures and various other